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For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TESTIMONIES IN FAVOUR OF VACCINATION; EXTRACTED FROM THE APPENDIX TO THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENT,* APRIL 22D, 1813.

Copy of a Letter from the President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

February 20th, 1813.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 5th January, I am directed by the Royal College of Physicians to inform you that during the year 1812, Vaccination has continued to be practised in this city as formerly, with uninterrupted success; that there have been very few instances where inoculation for the small pox has been insisted on; and that the mortality from natural small-pox has, in as far as the Royal College can judge, been very inconsiderable in this part of Scotland.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES HAMILTON, JUN. M.A.
President.

To Dr. HERVEY, Register of the National Vaccine Institution.

Communications from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, in reply to the request of the National Vaccine Board, have only to announce, as on former occasions, their unanimous and undiminished confidence in the security which vaccination affords against the small-pox. They have also every reason to believe, that the public

confidence remains undiminished. Among the higher ranks, vaccination continues to be universally practised, and though among the lower orders it has rather diminished for the last two or three years, the College attribute this entirely to the absence of any alarm from small-pox, and in no degree to a want of confidence in vaccination; for such want of confidence would naturally have led to applications for variolous inoculation; and this has not occurred within the knowledge of any member of the college.

The college regret, that from the want of regular public registers, they are unable to give any account of the mortality from small-pox in Scotland, or the proportion of the population that has been secured against small-pox by vaccination. They beg leave to suggest the propriety and importance of adopting some plan by which this knowledge may be obtained; for there is every reason to believe; that as small pox becomes more rare, vaccination will, among the lower orders, be still more neglected.

JAMES LAW, President.
Edinburgh, 15th January, 1813.

Copy of a Letter from the President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow.

Glasgow, 17th Feb. 1813.

SIR,

YOUR Letter of the 5th of January, having been laid before the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, a Committee was appointed to report thereon, and reported as follows:

"The Committee appointed to report to the Board of the National Vaccine Establishment, on the progress of vaccination in Glasgow, beg leave to state, that the deaths by small-pox, in the year 1812, have in that city amounted to 24; where-

*The Report of the Vaccine Establishment was published at page 142, Vol. 11; and the Resolutions of the Royal College of Surgeons, at page 494, Vol. 10, of the Belfast Magazine.

as, the average number of deaths from 1801 to 1804, exceeded 100, and the deaths for the seven years previous to the introduction of vaccination, exceed 200 yearly, though the population has of late years greatly increased; that eleven hundred and sixty-two have been gratuitously vaccinated at the Faculty-hall this year, besides the private patients of all the medical practitioners in town; and that the practice of inoculation for small-pox is totally discontinued, and the confidence in the preventive power of vaccination continues unabated."

(Signed) JAMES MONTEATH,
B. W. KING,
WM. ANDERSON.

The Faculty unanimously approve of this Report, and ordered a copy of it to be transmitted by the Præses to the Board of the National Vaccine Establishment.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. BALMANNO, M.D.
Præses of Faculty.

Report of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Dublin, Feb. 5th, 1813.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo, addressed to the President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, requesting the further opinion of the College on the practice of vaccination and its effects; and inquiring if the practice of inoculation for the small-pox obtains in Ireland; and what may be the mortality from the natural small-pox during the year 1812: and I am directed by the College to state in reply thereto, that since they had the honour of communicating with you on this subject early in the last year,

no circumstance has occurred to induce them to alter the favourable opinion they expressed on the practice of vaccination.

Genuine cow-pox, considered as a disease, appears to the College to be characterized by mildness, seldom induces any very obvious constitutional indisposition during its progress; and, it is believed, has uniformly proved an effectual prevention of small-pox.

A few cases of small-pox succeeding to vaccination, have been reported to the College to have occurred since the last communication; but, in these, either the cow-pox vesicle was imperfectly formed, or the other appearances, the existence of which is necessary to mark the true disease, were unsatisfactory. And further, the number of these cases is so small in proportion to that of vaccinated persons who are known to have resisted variolous contagion, particularly during the year 1812, that the confidence hitherto placed by the College in the anti-variolous effects of cow-pox remains unshaken.

For several years, the members and licentiates of the College of Surgeons, and, it is believed, all regular physicians and apothecaries in Ireland, have adopted the practice of vaccination; but it has been ascertained, that some unauthorized practitioners continue to inoculate for the small-pox, and thus renovate and support sources of contagion.

To this small practice has been ascribed the prevalence of natural small-pox, as an epidemic, in Dublin; and throughout the country, during the greater part of last year, the mortality occasioned by which, the College regret to be obliged to state, was very considerable, but the number cannot be ascertained, as returns are not made by the parishes.